



## Summer is Winding Down—Not!

As the Summer winds down and we start to look ahead to fall and what great dives we can look to doing, let's keep in mind that just because the cooler months are creeping in doesn't mean we have to slow or stop our diving. Since the kids are back in school, you may find you have more time on your hands to make your next diving plans or look to getting friends involved or your kids if they aren't already, we still have a few spots left in our Discover Scuba classes that are held every Tuesday at both our Carrollton & Garland locations, so come on in and let us introduce you to the wonderful world of scuba diving and discover fun for the whole family.

We're still enjoying great fun and rewarding weekends of camping & diving out at Clear Springs Scuba Park in Terrell, where every weekend we bring back a whole new group of certified divers, speaking of which, divers mark down on your calendar Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest with Chili Cook off competition so whip up your favorite dish for a chance to win a prize!!

As you know we are coming up on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> where we hope to see you all out there at our Project Aware Hells Gate clean up, so bring your gear and your c-cards and come on up it's just one more step and joint

effort in keeping our dive waters clean and safe for all to enjoy for years to come!!

On a final note the International Scuba & Dive Around Texas Challenge that was launched in February is winding down, so don't forget to stop by any one of our two stores to get your dives verified and log books stamped, we hope to see a good many of the International Scuba family claiming their rewards and prizes at the Awards Recognition Day on Sep 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Good luck all you Texas divers!!

Until next month, safe & happy diving, Donna

## Specialty of the month— Night Diving

One time over dinner on a dive trip I overheard one of our divers bemoan the fact that they had seen everything on the house reef and were bored with the same old same old. I asked if she had seen it at night yet. She said no she had never done a night dive and was a bit nervous because they wouldn't be able to see very well in the dark. It didn't take long for the whole table to help our misinformed diver get signed up for the Night Diver Specialty. Once you learn some of the tips and tricks taught in the Night Specialty you may begin to sleep in later and dive all night!

Does anyone remember the 80's rap group Whodini? They had a dance club hit called **The Freaks Come out at Night**. I often have those words stuck in my head when night diving. Once the sun drops below the horizon all the cool freaky creatures seem to come out of nowhere. Brittle Starfish slink from their hiding spots deep inside sponges. Eels leave the safety of cover and swim in the open looking for dinner. After dark is when octopi become active hunting and are a common highlight of many a night dive. My favorite interactive moment happens only at night with the Tarpon in Bonaire. Tarpon are pretty smart and have learned to follow night diver's lights to find unsuspecting fish. At first it can be a bit scary to have a huge fish swoop into view only to gobble up what you were just admiring. But after the initial shock wears off you learn

to have fun with them by sending them chasing your light all around the reef. At the same time I like to be careful not to accidentally feed the Tarpon by spotlighting some poor butterfly fish or squirrelfish.

One of the first things I hear from first time night divers is that they are surprised that they can see just a well at night as during the day. With the aid of a flashlight you will be able to see just as far. During a full moon I have even covered my light and let my eyes adjust to the low light. It was amazing that I didn't even need the light to see the entire reef. When diving in the ocean I love to turn off my light and wave my hand thru the water. This creates a dazzling light show as the phosphorescence in the water is disturbed and lights up leaving trails of tiny greenish light. If done with both hands and legs simultaneously you get an aquatic version of a snow angel.

To get started night diving you only need a few extra pieces of gear a primary light, a back up light and a tank marker light. Pick out a back up light that will easily fit in your pocket and it can do double duty during the day to peek into crevices and under ledges. Make sure to power your lights with rechargeable batteries as most of the islands have a hard time handling hazardous waste which is exactly what a used battery becomes. If you have non rechargeable batteries make sure to bring them back home with you and dispose of

them properly here. For the tank marker I recommend getting a battery powered light to protect our environment and avoid filling the landfills with cyalume sticks that are only good for one night. If diving on your own from shore you'll want a strobe in the water to identify the exit point and a good lantern on shore to help with tricky shorelines. It's also nice to have someone as shore support to help if you encounter any problems.

In the Night Specialty Course you will learn the following.

- How to Signal with your dive light.
- How to evaluate environmental conditions for a night dive.
- What gear to use and when to use it.
- Identify aquatic life seen during a night dive.
- How to navigate effectively at night.

Back to our intrepid night diver, she took the course and found that her excellent knowledge of the dive site during the day helped her enjoy the entirely new creatures that had come out to play at night. This old site became an exciting and completely new experience at night.

PADI Diving Society Members that sign up for the PADI Night Diver Specialty during the month of October will receive a very cool Glow Tube for use as a tank marker light.

Cheers - Rich

## Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

### WEEKEND:

- SEP 19-20
- SEP 25-26
- OCT 3-4
- OCT 10-11
- OCT 17-18
- OCT 31-NOV 1

### WHERE TO:

- JAN FLOWER GARDENS
- FEB CRNIVAL COZUMEL
- MAR FLOWER GARDENS
- APR PALAYA CAVERN
- MAY FLOWER GARDENS
- JUN FLOWER GARDENS

### FALL 2010—RED SEA

### SPRING 2011—FIJI

## Inside this issue:

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## Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

### Open Water (White Belt)

Rachel Steiner  
 Lily Steiner  
 Sierra Albanesi  
 Kiayak Skinner  
 Seth Fernandez  
 Pietro Saluzzo  
 Henry Menzies  
 Taylor Hendricks  
 Russ Allton  
 Stuart Chepey  
 Danielle Alcalá  
 Tom Leming  
 Chris Young  
 Curtis James  
 Joel Geyer  
 KellyClark  
 Miles Heresy  
 Robert Phillips  
 Quito Long  
 Tony Prim  
 Mary Phillips  
 Eric Davies  
 Chad Palmer  
 Linda Palmer  
 Sean Sturrock  
 Jeremy Ford  
 Denis Arauz  
 Jonathan Sulski  
 Tim Portner  
 Avery Tomeck  
 Blake Blackshear  
 Erika Kendrew  
 David Walters  
 David Glass  
 Bora Dincer  
 Melissa Black  
 Kris Culver  
 Elizabeth Arauz  
 Nathan Owen  
 Ali Hawley  
 Bryan Gillham  
 Jenny Jenkins  
 Thomas Bottles  
 William Hicks  
 Ryann Kaaa  
 Samantha Pierson  
 Garrett Stanley  
 Stephanie Manuel  
 Regina Watts  
 Dennis Phillips  
 Kathryn Vallo  
 Alisha Wongpanich

Jay Cogswell  
 Ron Cogswell

### National Geographic Open Water

Jeffrey Salomon  
 Shaun Cutill  
 Laura Cutill  
 Jerry Lopez  
 Jeremy Auerbach  
 Vicki Reed

### Adventure Diver

Jason Combiths  
 William Hicks  
 Dima Potts

### Advanced Open Water

Camden Scarborough  
 Alan Witheiler  
 Ed White  
 Wesley Scarborough

### Rescue Diver

Greg Burfiend  
 Alistair Giles  
 Nathalie White  
 Colten Murphy  
 Susan Coffey  
 Billy Coffey

### Deep

Jeff Ogar  
 Russell Henarie

### Drift

Dean Follmer

### EFR

Chris Fithian  
 Mike McCormick  
 Michael McCorkkle  
 Angie Magers  
 Allen Donohoo  
 Adam Norton  
 Greg Burfiend  
 Craig George  
 JW Safford  
 Susan Coffey  
 Billy Coffey  
 James Puckett  
 Jason Combiths  
 William Hicks  
 Chris Wickersham  
 Lori Mullins

Robert Lowry  
 Reed Lowry

### Enriched Air

Stephanie Porter

### Equipment

Jennifer Jones  
 Kirk Jones

### Fish ID

Dean Follmer

### Gas Blender

Tracy Thomas  
 Donna Jennings

### Hazardous Marine Life

#### Injury

Colton Murphy

### Underwater Naturalist

John Porter

### Underwater Navigator

John Porter  
 Jeff Ogar  
 Russell Henarie  
 Chip Harding

### Peak Perf. Buoyancy

Chris Young  
 Curtis James  
 Joel Geyer  
 John Porter  
 Tammy Kuhnell  
 Tony Kuhnell  
 Meshaelle Pate  
 Dustin Bournes  
 Greg Burfiend  
 William Hicks  
 Susan Coffey  
 Billy Coffey  
 Jonathan Sulski  
 Melissa Black  
 John Shewchuk  
 Dwight Shewcuk

### Oxygen Provider

Colten Murphy

### AED

Colten Murphy

### Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

### Wreck

Chip Harding  
 Alan Meadors

### Dive Master

Joe Bass

### Milestones



## Activities

### Another Hell of a Cleanup! At Hell's Gate, Possum Kingdom 9.19.09

Come join us **Saturday Sept. 19 at Possum Kingdom** as we take another shot at removing bottles, cans, sunglasses and other trash from the **Hell's Gate** party cove. We pulled out quite a bit of trash earlier this year but there is still plenty more to remove especially after a long holiday weekend of boating. Everyone will meet at the **BRA Boat Ramp #1** also known as **Scenic Cove Camp Ground at 10:00am** for **check in**. We will have boats that have been donated by local businesses and residents to transport us to Hell's Gate for the diving. Please bring a cash donation to help pay for the gas as the volunteers have been very generous by offering the use of their boats. Please RSVP so I'll have an idea how many will be coming. We will be grilling after the clean up so bring your favorite protein to toss on the grill and we'll help you cook it up.

**Todd Burn's wife Ann** (Owners of Scuba Point) is celebrating her birthday on Saturday but wanted to have the clean up anyway as **its Project Aware's National Clean up Day**. Make sure and tell her Happy Birthday and thanks for supporting scuba diving at Possum Kingdom for darn near her entire life!

**UPDATE: Inland Divers Dive Club on PK** is offering use of their private camp grounds and swim dock during the weekend. Amenities include 40x60 ft pavilion, spots for 6 campers, area for tent camping also. Electricity is available for a small donation. They are dog friendly which is always nice. It's located next door to the old Scuba Point and the contact info is Dave Robinson 972-299-5201 or 214-384-3790. This location is less than 5 minutes from the area we will be staging. Thank you to **Inland Divers** for the support!

### Dive Around Texas! Awards Ceremony and Party September 26<sup>th</sup> Aquarena Springs Center

Don't miss the biggest dive event in the Great State of Texas! You've been diving around Texas all summer and now is the time for the Big Event! Over 10 Thousand Dollars in Prizes will be awarded to Divers that register for the Dive Around Texas contest. Register here at International Scuba if you haven't already and bring your log book showing the dives completed this summer. We'll stamp your log book and then you take it along to show judges proof of dives. These dives will get you tickets to the big drawing. If you've already registered but haven't had your log stamped, come by soon!

### Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>

It's our **4th Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest** and you are invited to join the fun! There will be great prizes and lots of fun for all. In keeping with tradition we will offer the exclusive **PADI Underwater Pumpkin Carving Specialty** for just the cost of the certification card 25.00! There is nothing that impresses a Caribbean Dive Master more then the moment you pull out the Underwater Pumpkin Carving Card and slap that in his sun burned hand. Instant diver's credibility! Don't leave home without it! Ok that might be a bit of an exaggeration but you will stand out from the crowd and have a blast learning to safely carve a pumpkin into a ghoulish work of art! UW/Pumpkin Carving certification is not required to participate in the contest.

### Scuba Trips in 2010

I've been fielding lots of calls about where we are going diving in 2010. The simple answer is where do you want to go? In 2010 we will be offering the most flexibility and best rates on scuba travel ever! Over the next month we will be charting a course to your favorite destinations. But we need your input to pick the most sought after destinations. We have also added our new travel page that can help you find the best rates around on travel near and far. Check it out at [Travel.InternationalScuba.com](http://Travel.InternationalScuba.com) and click the preferred customer button. By filling out a quick form you unlock the door to special travel rates usually reserved for travel agents. We have tested this program all year long and are excited to offer it to our scuba family.

### Social Media and International Scuba

You would have to be living under a rock not to have heard about the **Facebook, Twitter and Myspace** craze.

You might or might not know that International Scuba has been dipping our toes in the Social Media pool for over a year now. Let me welcome you to our efforts. Our strongest presence is on **Facebook.com**. Sign up and search for the International Scuba fan site or look up any of the staff and make a friend request. This is a great way to find out about last minute activities and be the first to learn about whatever is going on. I often use **Facebook** to let everyone know where I'm going diving that weekend and invite you to join us. If you have questions or want to be added to my personal page shoot an email to [rich@internationalscuba.com](mailto:rich@internationalscuba.com). While we are talking about social media let me tell you about **Diversone.com** -- a website for divers about diving. We were the first onboard with **Diversone.com** and have partnered with them by providing a shopping cart for the members. It's a great place to share pictures and meet new divers. I highly recommend jumping in now and helping grow this cool resource!

Please visit our website. We do our best to keep it up to date. Let us know what you think about the site and the newsletter. An important part of our success has been the friendships developed among customers and team. That's part of why we dive.

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GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

## CD Corner — Back to Basics

Howdy Divers,

Have you ever gotten caught up and had to stop to reflect and re-evaluate? It can be tough. If you have done this—hope it was for the better.

I was given the opportunity to step out of the Course Director role (which I love) this last weekend and train recreationally (team doesn't let me do this much). I can't begin to tell you how much fun we had. As you know it started raining on Thursday and is still raining as I type on Monday evening, we had 15 folks head to the lake to brave that rain.

I am excited to say we brought home new Open Water Divers, Specialty Divers, AOW Divers, and Rescue Divers. I got to work with team members I have never had the opportunity to work with and train some new folks along the way.

I believe in the philosophy that we "get to" not "got to" have fun and this weekend it prevailed. You all know rain is a yucky from time to time but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Several of us even camped. I love the rain and it was a gentle kind of rain so I sleep awesome—not so much for all and that is a bummer. Sorry Donna! At the end of Sunday, despite the sogginess, I think everyone including myself had a great weekend.

Sometimes when things get tough, take a moment to stop and reflect. See if you need to step back and do something different—don't be afraid to do so.

Starting at square one isn't all that bad.

We hope to see you at the PK Cleanup and upcoming Punkin carving

Cheers,

Patti



## Creature Feature — Manta Ray



I thought that the Manta Ray would be a great follow up to the Whale Shark in last months article, as this creature is the largest of all rays. You can typically spot them in the tropical waters around coral reefs. One of the largest ever found was 25 feet from wing tip to wing tip and weighted about 5,000 lbs. Wow!!!

Mantas have been called a variety of names such as the Atlantic manta, Pacific manta, devilfish and just plan manta. They are so graceful and pleasant to watch as they glide through the water effortlessly.

Mantas evolved over time from bottom feeders to filter feeders which allowed them to grow larger in size from the ray species. Along with the size difference they also have a thicker layer of mucus covering their body. They feed off plankton and fish larvae.

Cleaning stations are a favor place to visit for small fish such as wrasse and angelfish to clean off unwanted parasites and dead skin.

Predators are mainly large sharks and occasionally the orcas. Mantas are extremely curious creatures and tend to like scuba divers. So keep you eye out for these gentle giants.